

What is claimed is:

1. A method for providing remote access to captured content, comprising:
 - locally capturing content for an event using a capture device;
 - automatically transmitting the content from the capture device to a remote computer over a communications network;
 - automatically associating the content with a user account;
 - automatically publishing the content on a remote server; and
 - providing the content to a user access device of a user associated with the user account.
2. The method defined in claim 1 wherein capturing content comprises capturing content without persistently storing the content.
3. The method defined in claim 1 wherein:
 - publishing the content further comprises automatically publishing the content to a plurality of user accounts on the remote server; and
 - providing the content further comprises providing the content to user access devices of users associated with the plurality of user accounts.
4. The method defined in claim 1 wherein:
 - the method further comprises detecting the event with a sensor; and
 - locally capturing content comprises automatically capturing the content in response to the detection of the event by the sensor.

5. The method defined in claim 4 wherein the sensor is a motion sensor, a contact sensor, a smoke sensor, a humidity sensor, a water emersion sensor, a radon sensor, a temperature sensor, an audio sensor, a carbon monoxide sensor, an infrared sensor, or a radiation sensor.

6. The method defined in claim 1 wherein the capture device is a video camera, a still camera, a microphone, or a temperature gauge.

7. The method defined in claim 1 wherein:
the method further comprises
encapsulating the content with metadata, wherein the metadata includes information about the capture device;
and
publishing the content on the web site
comprises publishing the information about the capture device with the content according to the metadata.

8. The method defined in claim 1 wherein:
the method further comprises
encapsulating the content with metadata, wherein the metadata includes information about the content; and
publishing the content on the web site
comprises publishing the content according to the information about the content in the metadata.

9. The method defined in claim 8 wherein:
the information about the content
includes the type of the content; and
publishing the content according to the information about the content comprises publishing the

content according to the type of the content as indicated in the metadata.

10. The method defined in claim 8 wherein the type of content includes picture, video, or text.

11. The method defined in claim 1 wherein:
the capture device has an associated virtual interface;

the method further comprises encapsulating the content with metadata, wherein the metadata includes information about the virtual interface; and

publishing the content on the web site comprises providing the user with access to the content using the virtual interface according to the metadata.

12. The method defined in claim 1 wherein:
the method further comprises encapsulating the content with metadata, wherein the metadata includes user information; and

automatically associating the content with a user account comprises automatically associating the content with a user account based on the user information.

13. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising:

encapsulating the content with metadata, wherein the metadata includes information about the event; and

providing an electronic notification to the user, wherein the notification includes the information about the event.

14. A system for providing remote access to captured content comprising:

a capture device configured to locally capture content;

a remote computer configured to automatically associate the content with a user account and automatically publish the content to a web site;

a monitoring module configured to automatically provide the content to the remote computer from the capture device over a communications network;

the remote computer configured to automatically publish the content to the remote server; and

a user access device configured to provide content of a user associated with the user account.

15. The system defined in claim 14 wherein the capture device captures content without persistently storing the content.

16. The system defined in claim 14 wherein: the remote computer is further configured to automatically publish content to a plurality of user accounts on the remote server; and

the user access device is further configured to provide content to users associated with the plurality of user accounts.

17. The system defined in claim 14 wherein: the system further comprises a sensor configured to detect an event; and

the capture device is further configured to locally capture the content in response to the detection of the event by the sensor.

18. The system defined in claim 17 wherein the sensor is a motion sensor, a contact sensor, a smoke sensor, a humidity sensor, a water emersion sensor, a radon sensor, a temperature sensor, an audio sensor, a carbon monoxide sensor, an infrared sensor, or a radiation sensor.

19. The system defined in claim 14 wherein the capture device is a video camera, a still camera, a microphone, or a temperature gauge.

20. The system defined in claim 14 wherein:
the monitoring module is further configured to encapsulate the content with metadata, wherein the metadata includes information about the capture device; and

the remote computer is further configured to publish the content according to the information about the capture device.

21. The system defined in claim 14 wherein:
the monitoring module is further configured to encapsulate the content with metadata, wherein the metadata includes information about the content; and

the remote computer is further configured to publish the content according to the information about the content.

22. The system defined in claim 21 wherein:

the information about the content includes the type of content; and
the remote computer is further configured to publish the content according to the type of content.

23. The system defined in claim 21 wherein the type of content includes picture, video, or text.

24. The system defined in claim 14 wherein:
the capture device has an associated virtual interface;

the monitoring module is further configured to encapsulate the content with metadata, wherein the metadata includes information about the virtual interface; and

the remote computer is further configured to publish the content on the web site according to the information about the virtual interface.

25. The system defined in claim 14 wherein:
the monitoring module is further configured to encapsulate the content with metadata, wherein the metadata includes information about the user information; and

the remote computer is further configured to publish the content according to the user information.

26. The system defined in claim 14 wherein:
the monitoring module is further configured to encapsulate the content with metadata,

wherein the metadata includes information about the event; and

the system further comprises a notification device configured to provide an electronic notification to the user, wherein the notification includes the information about the event.

27. A system for providing remote access to captured content comprising:

means for locally capturing content for an event;

means for automatically transmitting the content to a remote computer over a communications network;

means for automatically associating the content with a user account;

means for automatically publishing the content to a remote server; and

means for associating a user with the user account.

28. The system defined in claim 27 wherein the means for capturing content without persistently storing the content comprises the capture device.

29. The system defined in claim 27 wherein: the means for automatically publishing the content further comprises means for publishing the content to a plurality of user accounts on the remote server; and

the means for providing the content further comprises means for providing the content to user access devices of users associated with the plurality of user accounts.

30. The system defined in claim 27 wherein:
the system further comprises means for
detecting the event; and
the means for locally capturing content
comprises means for automatically capturing the content
in response to the detection of the event by the means
for detecting.

31. The system defined in claim 30 wherein
the means for detecting comprises a motion sensor, a
contact sensor, a smoke sensor, a humidity sensor, a
water emersion sensor, a radon sensor, a temperature
sensor, an audio sensor, a carbon monoxide sensor, an
infrared sensor, or a radiation sensor.

32. The system defined in claim 27 wherein
the means for capturing comprises a video camera, a
still camera, a microphone, or a temperature gauge.

33. The system defined in claim 27 wherein:
the system further comprises means for
encapsulating the content with metadata, wherein the
metadata includes information about the capture device;
and

the means for publishing the content on
the web site comprises means for publishing the
information about the capture device with the content
according to the metadata.

34. The system defined in claim 27 wherein:
the system further comprises means for
encapsulating the content with metadata, wherein the
metadata includes information about the content; and

the means for publishing the content on the web site comprises means for publishing the content according to the information about the content in the metadata.

35. The system defined in claim 34 wherein:
the information about the content includes the type of the content; and
the means for publishing the content according to the information about the content comprises means for publishing the content according to the type of the content as indicated in the metadata.

36. The system defined in claim 34 wherein the means for identifying the type of content comprises identifying picture, video, or text.

37. The system defined in claim 27 wherein:
the capture device has an associated virtual interface;
the system further comprises means for encapsulating the content with metadata, wherein the metadata includes information about the virtual interface; and
the means for publishing the content on the web site comprises means for providing the user with access to the content using the virtual interface according to the metadata.

38. The system defined in claim 27 wherein:
the system further comprises means for encapsulating the content with metadata, wherein the metadata includes user information; and

the means for automatically associating the content with a user account comprises means for automatically associating the content with a user account based on the user information.

39. The system defined in claim 27 further comprising:

means for encapsulating the content with metadata, wherein the metadata includes information about the event; and

means for providing an electronic notification to the user, wherein the notification includes the information about the event.